

Carlee A. Noecker
59 Willard Common
Concord, MA 01742
January 26, 1993

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JAN 29 1993

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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JAN 29 1993

Re. MM Doc. No. 92-266

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary:

Effective January 1st our cable service charge was raised from \$20.95 per month to \$27.90 per month, an increase of 33.2%. There was absolutely no change in service. The notice we received explaining the increase is attached, and the service we subscribed to is referred to as "Super Basic" which is, I believe, the most popular service. The increase in our monthly bill is broken down as follows:

	<u>Total Monthly Increase</u>
1) Increase in "Super Basic" rate from \$20.95 to \$23.95	\$3.00
2) Newly initiated converter rental charge	2.95
3) Newly initiated surcharge for underground wiring plan	<u>1.00</u>
	\$6.95

In the attached notice Nashoba Cable Services states, "Most of these changes were prompted by the cable bill which Congress passed in October...." As I understand matters, the cable bill was not meant to and should not lead to increases in cable subscription rates. In fact, it should result in lower rates. It is my further understanding that your Commission has the authority under the law to require a roll back in rates where rate increases have been inappropriate. I believe you should certainly require a roll back in this case as a 33.2% increase can probably be best described, not as inappropriate, but as egregious, obscene, etc.

Yours truly,

Carlee A. Noecker

Carlee A. Noecker

cc: Congressman John Dingell
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman Martin Meehan
Congressman Edward Markey

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List A B C D E

REMOTE CONTROL SERVICE AND REMOTE UNITS

Remote control capability, formerly \$2.95 per month, will now be activated on all converters at no additional charge.

Remote control units may be rented from Nashoba Cable for \$1 per month. This charge will not be discounted in packages.

You can avoid paying any remote rental charges by returning our remotes and using your own programmable "universal" remote. You may also purchase the unit you are now using for \$9.95, or a new one for \$19.95, and again, pay no rental charge.

NEW CONVERTER POLICY - SUPER BASIC SUBSCRIBERS

An equipment fee of \$2.95 per month will be charged for the primary converter in use.

We will waive the equipment fee for Super Basic subscribers who take People's Choice and/or any premium service such as Showtime.

We will waive the normal \$10 service upgrade charge from now until the end of January, 1993 for subscribers who wish to avoid the equipment fee by adding one or more services.

Converters will continue to be required for Super Basic subscribers, as in the past.

NEW CONVERTER POLICY - ECONOMY BASIC SUBSCRIBERS

Economy Basic subscribers may subscribe to premium services or use pay-per-view without taking Super Basic; however, reception of these services requires a converter, for which you will be charged the \$2.95 equipment fee.

Economy Basic-only subscribers with cable-ready TV sets or VCRs may return their converters if they do not want premium or pay-per-view services. In that case, we will waive the equipment charge. We are in the process of installing new equipment in our system to trap out Super Basic services for subscribers who only wish to take Economy Basic.

CONVERTER POLICY - ADDITIONAL OUTLETS

The \$7.95 charge for additional outlets (formerly \$8.00) will be designated on your bill as a \$5.00 "service charge" and a \$2.95 "equipment charge." This price includes remote capability.

RATE SHEET

Below are Nashoba Cable's rates and packaging structure effective January 1, 1993. Please note that Nashoba's current packaging structure will no longer be applicable after that date. All package prices include Economy and Super Basic tiers.

MONTHLY CHARGES (a la carte)

CURRENT

AS OF 1/1/93

Standard Services:

People's Choice	\$ 4.95	same
Economy Basic Tier	8.00	same
Super Basic Tier	12.95	15.95*

Premium Services (a la carte):

HBO	9.95	11.95
Cinemax	9.95	same
NESN	9.95	same
Playboy	9.95	same
Showtime	9.95	same
The Movie Channel	9.95	same
Flix***	---	5.95

Ancillary Services:

Remote Control Capability	2.95	-0-
Remote Control Rental	---	1.00 each unit
Additional Outlets	8.00	7.95** each set

MONTHLY PACKAGE PRICES:

Special Discounted Packages:

Front Row	---	11.95
PC Plus (People's Choice & NESN)	---	12.95

Packages Without HBO ****

	Premium Pac	PC Plus Pac	Front Row Pac	PC Plus/Front Row Pac
+1 premium	---	\$47.35	\$46.35	\$58.30
+2 premiums	\$43.85	54.80	53.80	65.75
+3 premiums	50.30	61.75	60.75	---
+4 premiums	56.75	69.70	---	---
+5 premiums	64.70	---	---	---

Packages with HBO ****

	HBO Pac	PC Plus/ HBO Pac	Front Row/ HBO Pac	PC Plus/Front Row/ HBO Pac
+1 premium	\$45.35	\$57.30	\$56.30	\$68.75
+2 premiums	52.80	64.75	63.75	76.70
+3 premiums	59.75	72.70	71.70	---
+4 premiums	67.70	80.65	---	---
+5 premiums	75.65	---	---	---

People's Choice Packages

If you currently have a People's Choice package, please add \$4.95 to the cost of each of the packages above to arrive at your new package price. This does not apply to packages which include People's Choice Plus, as People's Choice is already included.

* * *

*There is a \$1.00 monthly Basic surcharge for all Concord subscribers to cover Nashoba's costs to comply with the Town's underground wiring plan.

**The \$7.95 charge for additional outlets will be separated into a \$5.00 "service charge" and a \$2.95 "equipment charge" for rental of the converter. Price includes remote capability.

***Other than packages including Front Row, Flix does not count as a premium in the discount packages identified above.

****Any of the above packages containing 2 or more premiums (Front Row and People's Choice Plus each count as a premium) include a monthly program guide. Any of the above packages containing 3 or more premiums include cable stereo and FM service.

Nashoba Cable

Nashoba Cable Services
PO Box 407
Westford, MA 01886

RECEIVED

JAN 29 1993

FCC - MAIL ROOM

Dear Subscriber,

We want to tell you about some important changes in your cable service that will take effect January 1, 1993. Please review this information carefully, as it describes a number of new policies that will affect you, including a major restructuring of our rates and channel lineup.

Most of these changes were prompted by the cable bill which Congress passed in October, and we have worked hard to incorporate these changes in order to give you a wide range of choices in the programming you select and the total amount you wish to pay for cable service.

Some subscribers will find that their bills actually will decrease or stay the same following these changes. Other subscribers will see an increase, but we are offering some options, including new discounted packages, to help you get the most value for your entertainment dollar. We'd like to point out that these discounts were not brought about by rate regulation, which applies only to basic service.

As of January 1, there will be adjustments in the rates for Super Basic service and HBO, and some changes in our policies regarding converters and remote controls (including a provision to let you use your own remote instead of ours). We are pleased to announce that there will be no increases in any of our other rates and charges, including our charges for installation, relocating outlets, etc.

Due to these new policies and rate adjustments, we will also be restructuring and adjusting the charges for our discounted packages. Please refer to the enclosed rate chart for details.

In order to conform with legal requirements in the new cable bill, specifically the provision that lets Economy Basic customers subscribe to premium and pay-per-view services, our channel lineup will be rearranged substantially as of January 1. We wish we could avoid this change, but the only other way we could comply with the law would be to scramble Super Basic services. In view of the controversy surrounding scrambling, as well as the fact that the Federal Communications Commission's policy on scrambling has yet to be announced, we felt that trapping out Super Basic channels was the more desirable option at this time.

As a result of the new cable bill, the FCC will be announcing new regulations over the next year and beyond which could require other changes in our rates and channel lineup. Court decisions may also play a role in this process. Please bear with us during this transition period. We're adding staff to handle calls, but you may find our phones busier than usual for a while. We'll keep you informed of changes as they occur.

Thank you for being a Nashoba subscriber.

Sincerely,

NASHOBA CABLE

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The following rate adjustments, package discounts, and policies will take effect January 1, 1993 unless otherwise noted.

RATE ADJUSTMENTS - BASIC SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL OUTLETS

The package price for Super Basic plus Economy Basic service will be adjusted from \$20.95 to \$23.95 per month, with the price of Economy Basic remaining at \$8.00.

Remote service capability will be included with Super Basic at no additional charge.

The price of additional outlets will be adjusted slightly downward from \$8.00 to \$7.95, and this price will include remote service capability.

RATE ADJUSTMENTS - PREMIUM SERVICES

The a la carte price for Home Box Office will increase from \$9.95 to \$11.95 per month. We have held this price at \$9.95 since 1983 and are very reluctant to change it, but HBO has raised its license fees to us continuously over the years and recently has announced another increase.

We will offer some options regarding HBO to help subscribers with this adjustment. We will discount the price if you subscribe to HBO as part of a package, as shown on the enclosed rate chart. Also, if HBO is your only premium service and you would like to switch to a different one, we will waive the normal \$10 upgrade charge from now until the end of January, 1993.

There will be no price increase for any other premium service.

NEW SERVICES AND DISCOUNTED PACKAGES (PRICES GUARANTEED UNTIL 1/1/94!)

Front Row, combining Showtime, The Movie Channel, and Flix, will premiere in January. This great package offers more than \$25 worth of programming for only \$11.95 a month! Flix, a new service with hit movies of the 70s, 80s and 90s, will be \$5.95 monthly a la carte. Showtime and The Movie Channel now cost \$9.95 per month each. With all three services, Front Row is an incredible value!

People's Choice will include the Sci-Fi Channel at no additional charge, effective immediately. We guarantee that the price of this award-winning package will remain at \$4.95 for at least another full year -- until January 1, 1994!

People's Choice Plus is our brand new package for sports fans. It includes all six channels in People's Choice plus New England Sports Network (NESN) -- more than \$40 worth of programming for only \$12.95 a month! It's a great way to save almost \$2.00 on NESN and enjoy The Disney Channel, SportsChannel, Bravo, Court TV, E! Entertainment TV and the Sci-Fi Channel -- all for one amazingly low price!